

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FINAL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Corydon Battle Site

AND/OR COMMON

Battle of Corydon Memorial Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of old Indiana #135 south of Corydon

CITY, TOWN

Corydon

☒ VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Harrison

CODE

061

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Harrison County Park and Recreation Board

STREET &amp; NUMBER

300 North Capitol Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Corydon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Harrison County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

300 North Capitol Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Corydon

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

DATE

1972

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Corydon Battlefield Site is a five acre park located on the east side of Indiana State Road 135 just south of the Town of Corydon. The battlefield park is a heavily wooded area covered with hardwood trees, some of which date from 1863. The park is located in the middle of a wooded ridge which runs from the old New Amsterdam Road on the west, across the Mauckport Pike (State Road 135), to Laconia Road on the east. To the south of the ridge are open fields in a flat terrain. A few hundred yards to the north is a hill beyond which lies the Town of Corydon.

Although the park area looks much as it did in 1863, a few alterations have been made. A gravel drive leads a short distance to a parking lot on the property from State Road 135, and a marker has been placed on the east side of State Road 135. In the late 1930's a log cabin was reconstructed on the property. The cabin was originally located 500 feet to the northwest and is of unknown origin. The structure is a hewn log cabin containing one room and a loft. Shuttered windows flank a central door and there is a small window in the south gable end. The roof has wood shingles. The site and cabin have not changed since the pictures were taken in 1976.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE				CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES July 9, 1863

BUILDER ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Battle of Corydon Site is significant in that it commemorates the only Civil War Battle to take place in Indiana. In an attempt to take the war to the North for a number of military and diplomatic reasons, the South launched several campaigns in 1863; General John Morgan's raid in Southern Indiana was one of these efforts.

Morgan's Raid started on July 8, 1863, when his Confederate Raiders crossed the Ohio River in the steamer, Alice Dean. Morgan's force of 2400 men advanced north on the Mauckport Pike (State Road 135) toward Corydon. After traveling some fourteen miles, the raiders first met armed resistance just south of Corydon about noon on July 9. Hearing of the invasion, the local militia, known as the "Indiana Legion," or the "Home Guard," quickly threw up breastworks along a wooded ridge which ran across the Mauckport Pike. This "Battle Line Ridge" extends from the New Amsterdam Road on the west to the Laconia Road on the east. Although the local force of 400 was vastly outnumbered by Morgan's force, they prevented the raiders from breaking through their battle line during two attacks. The Confederates reconnoitered and decided to await reinforcements. Before long, the Rebels brought several small cannon to bear on the militia and had enough men to flank the ends of the "Battle Line Ridge" near the New Amsterdam and Laconia Roads. This time the Rebels broke through the battle line and made hostages of 345 of the militia. The hostages were soon released, and Morgan's men advanced their cannon to the rim of a small hill overlooking the town of Corydon. After a few minutes of shelling, the town raised a surrender flag. The Confederates proceeded into the town where they first learned of Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. Corydon was one of the few Northern towns to be captured by the Southern forces during the Civil War. After securing fresh mounts the raiders resumed their campaign.

Some contemporaries claimed that Morgan's Raid failed because the unanticipated delay at Corydon allowed Union forces under General Hobson to get closer to Morgan, who cut his campaign short to avoid capture. More importantly, the resistance at Corydon dispelled the notion that the Confederate sympathies would induce Southern Indiana residents to welcome an invasion by the South. In fact, the various political groups in the State stopped their bickering, and 65,000 volunteers assembled in Indianapolis in 48 hours. Thus, while the military impact of the Battle of Corydon, itself, was small, there were important consequences for the war effort in Indiana.

From 1900 to 1975 the Corydon Battle Site was part of a farm owned by the Hays family. Fortunately, the Hays family were avid conservationists and preserved the battlefield. In the late 1930's, Mr. and Mrs. C. Blaine Hays, Sr., had reconstructed on the property a one-room log cabin which previously stood about 500 feet to the northwest where the Old Capitol United Methodist Church now stands. In December, 1975, the three children of C. Blaine Hays, Jr., (Barbara Hays Hamilton, James H. Hays, and Margaret C. Hays), donated the property to the Harrison County Park and Recreation Board.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 Acres

UTM REFERENCES Corydon West Quad

Scale 1:24000

A 1,6 5,7,6 1,7,0 4,2,2,8 2,7,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C 1,6 5,7,6 3,3,0 4,2,2,8 0,8,0

B 1,6 5,7,6 3,4,0 4,2,2,8 2,7,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D 1,6 5,7,6 1,6,0 4,2,2,8 1,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frederick Porter Griffin, Past President

ORGANIZATION Harrison County Historical Society

DATE July 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 116 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 446

TELEPHONE 812/738-3692

CITY OR TOWN Corydon

STATE Indiana 47112

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE X LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE April 27, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Thornbrough, Emma Lou, Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1965.

Wilson, William F., "Thunderbolt of the Confederacy, or King of Horse Thieves," Indiana Magazine of History. Vol. 54 (June, 1958), pp 120-127.

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Funk, Arville L., "The Battle of Corydon," Indiana Magazine of History, Vol. 54 (June, 1958), pp 131-140.

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Brown, Dee A., The Bold Cavaliers. Philadelphia: Lippincott Co., 1959.

Keller, Allan, Morgan's Raid. Indianapolis: Bobbs Merrill Co., 1961.

Swiggett, Howard, The Rebel Raider. Indianapolis: Bobbs Merrill Co., 1934.

Bennett, Pamela J., "Burke's Civil War Journal," Indiana Magazine of History, June, 1970.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

A part of -- The Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 4 South, Range 3 east, in Harrison Township, Harrison County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a stone found marking the Northeast corner of Section 1, thence West with the Section line, basis of bearings this description 232.47 feet to a #5 reinforcing bar, this being the point of beginning, thence continuing West 389.55 feet to the center of old State Road 135, thence with said road South 60°-47'-29" West 224.99 feet, South 20°-37'-20" West 219.83 feet, thence leaving said road and passing through a utility pole North 79°-26'-17" East 80.57 feet to a 24-inch diameter tree, thence South 55°-43'40" East 419.92 feet to a #5 reinforcing bar, thence North 664.71 feet to the point of beginning containing 5.000 Acres, more or less.





Battle of Corydon

T.35 S.1E

T.45 Corydon, Indiana

U.T.M. Reference

A

16/5 76176/4228270

B

16/5 76347/4228270

C

16/5 76336/4228080

D

16/5 76160/4228100

(CORYDON EAST) 3760 II NE  
9 MI. TO IND. II

LANESVILLE 9 MI.  
NEW ALBANY 21 MI.

4226